How does the usage of smartphones affect the time that Year 1 RI boys spend with their family members?

Smartphones are basically mobile phones that offer more connectivity than that of normal phone models. Current smartphones also have touchscreens and have their own operating system, e.g. iPhones have iOS. They also have many more functions than normal phone models. They have Wi-fi and broadband access, and many other functions which make them much more user friendly. Smartphones like the iPhone can have many games which are fun and addictive, particularly more so because the games can be connected to social networks,e.g. facebook, which allows people to play with their friends.

Telecommunications companies have helped drive demand by dangling heavily discounted handsets and generous price plans. Consumers who sign up for StarHub's Smartsurf plans, for instance, pay just $40 a month for voice, SMS and 12GB of mobile data. (Chua, 2010) This makes smartphones much more affordable and parents are thus more willing to buy smartphones for their children.

Over the last six months, smartphones like the Apple iPhone, BlackBerry Bold and HTC Hero – which allow users to check e-mail, watch YouTube videos, edit PowerPoint presentations and perform other activities usually associated with computers – made up an unprecedented 70 per cent to 80 per cent of all handset sales, said Singapore's three telcos. (Chua, 2010) As stated above, many singaporeans are choosing to buy smartphones over regular phone models, as they are far more connected and have more functions than normal phones. This is also due to the growing wealth of the population, and many parents can now afford to buy smartphones for their children.

As the smartphones can be connected to the internet, students can check their email and log on to social networks, like facebook, and are able to talk to their friends at literally anytime of the day, and as most teenagers find socialising with their friends much more meaningful than spending time with family members, and are spending more and more time on their smartphones. Most parents are also not tech-savvy, as such, the students have less time for other things, i.e., spending time with family members. This has led to the deterioration of the relationships between many teenagers and their family members. Miscommunication and lack of understanding can also result from this.

1.Framing your research topic:

a) Students are spending more and more time using smartphones and thus have less time for other activities, leading to a lack of family bonding.

Students use their smartphones to log on to social networks, and do not want to talk to their families knowing that they can talk to their friends instead. After not spending time with their families for extended periods of time, students find it harder to find things to talk about with family members.

Students might use smartphones in class and be distracted from their studies, thus decreasing their academic performance.

Possible solutions:

Prevent students from bringing smartphones to school.

Parents and teachers could also use the social networks to monitor students.

Educate students on the negative effects on over usage of smartphones.

2. Reasons for choice of topic:

a) I chose this topic as teenagers have become more tech-savvy, and many have or want smartphones, I have observed many students who have arguments with their parents and their siblings, and many of these arguments are caused by “invasion of privacy”, or parents not wanting to buy them smartphones, or other reasons, all relating to smartphones. As such, I feel that this is a relevant topic.

c) iii)I feel that choosing this topic will benefit society, as this topic is relevant to all of us and it is also a problem that many of us encounter in our daily lives. It is also feasible as the information can be easily obtained.

3.Feasibility of project:

a) There is a need for this project as many students now own smartphones, and many are spending too much time on their smartphones, and in the busy life of a student, this leaves them with very little time for interacting with their family members.

b) I think it is possible to carry out and complete this project as many students own smartphones and carrying out a survey will be easily accomplished. Most of the information needed is also easily accessible. As a student, I will also be able to provide some views on the topic, and also obtain views from fellow students.

c) It will be easy to construct a online survey and carry it out, using websites like surveymonkey.com. Many students will also be able to give their views on the topic as it is something they encounter everyday in their lives.

d) This topic will provide sufficient opportunity for generation of ideas, as even though students encounter smartphones everyday, they rarely discuss the disadvantages of smartphones.

4.Manageability of project:

a)I could set deadlines for myself to make sure that I finish the project on time, and try to complete the project early so there is time to correct mistakes.

b)I feel that my proposed course of action is logical and realistic, as the proposed solution will be easy to carry out.

c) Some students might find some information personal and withhold it, and many might not take the survey seriously. They might also have biased views as they will most likely support the use of smartphones and will not do anything to discourage it. We could remind the students to give their best answer for their survey questions but it would be difficult to do anymore.

References

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